

Virginia Association of Fairs Youth Leadership Awards Competition Packet 2008

Date of Competition: Saturday, January 5, 2008 10:00 a.m.
Location: Williamsburg, VA, in conjunction with Virginia Association of Fairs Annual Convention

Contact Persons: Kaci Coppedge Daniel Blaine Lenhart
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Entries Due: Friday, December 7, 2007 (must be received by 5 p.m.)
Mail to: Kaci Daniel, P.O. Box 30, Orange, VA 22960
Entry consists of application, résumé and essay; not speeches.
Late entries will not be accepted.

Eligibility: Open to youth ages 14-19 as of January 1, 2008, who have been an active participant in a VAF-member fair or festival.
(Previous year's first-place winner not eligible; see general rules.)

Scholarship Prizes:

1st Place	\$ 2500.00
2nd place	\$ 1500.00
3rd place	\$ 1000.00
4th Place	\$ 1000.00
5th place	\$ 500.00
6th place	\$ 500.00

Contest Components:

1. Prepared Public Speaking
2. Extemporaneous Public Speaking
3. Application, Résumé, and Essay
4. Promotion Symposium
5. Interview

(Components weighted equally for total score.)

Notes about Scholarship Prizes:

All prizes are given in the form of scholarships and will be dispersed as such upon receipt of a bill showing the winner's name and made payable to any accredited post-secondary institution of higher learning. Awards can only be used toward the intended purpose of scholarships for further education. No other uses of the prize monies are allowable under these contest rules. The recipient has until their 23rd birthday to use the funds awarded in this contest. If they are not used by this deadline for an allowed purpose, the funds will revert to the leadership scholarship program account for use in future contests. Scholarship proceeds are not transferable under any circumstances. Funds will be held in a trust account by the Virginia Association of Fairs and bills from a qualified institution must be submitted in a timely fashion to the Treasurer of the Association. (Note: We realize institutions may operate differently. Please contact Contest Coordinators for special assistance.) Please allow several weeks for processing.

Contest Goals:

1. Recognize superior leadership characteristics among junior members of the Association and the industry.
2. Encourage and develop leadership skills among junior members so that they will be able to serve their local boards, the industry, and their local communities as leaders of tomorrow.

General Rules:

1. Contestants must be from the ages of 14 to 19 as of January 1, 2008.
2. First place winners from the immediate preceding year (2007) are ineligible to compete. Top winners must “sit out” one year before competing again.
3. In order to compete, contestants must have actively participated in their local VAF-member fair, and their application must be signed by a local, sponsoring fair official. Participation is not limited to only junior fair board members. A young person who has served as a volunteer and an exhibitor is a good example of a logical candidate for this contest.
4. A letter of reference from a fair member must be submitted with the application, résumé, and essay. ***New for 2008***
5. Contestants must be present in the designated room at the conference hotel during the Virginia Association of Fairs Convention, by 10:00 a.m. on the contest date, to receive instructions.
6. Contestants should be dressed in professional attire and conduct themselves accordingly during the entire contest period.
7. In case of a tie for any placement based on numerical scores, the judging panel will be informed and consulted to break the tie after the completion of the contest.
8. Contest results will be announced at the Awards Banquet on Saturday night. The top six contestants will be notified and expected to stay for the banquet, although all competitors are encouraged to attend the banquet.
9. Top scorers in selected division(s) will present at the banquet.

Symposium:

1. Contestants are required to create a PowerPoint presentation on the topic listed below with the option of also using photos, charts, and posters. A laptop and LCD projector will be available. Any other equipment needs should be provided by the presenter.
2. Presentations should be saved on a USB-type portable storage device or a recordable CD.
3. Presenters should not incorporate sound as speakers will not be available. Presenters should also refrain from using additional software, add-ons, movie clips, etc. so as to minimize possible technological glitches.
4. Two-thirds of the score from this component of the contest will be decided by two (2) adult volunteers. The remaining one-third of the score will be the average score given by each of the other contestants.
5. The score sheet for 4-H presentations and public speaking will serve as the basis for scores.

Composition (organization, use of language, knowledge of subject)	40%
Delivery (projection, fluency, voice, diction, enunciation)	45%
Response to Questions	15%
6. Adult and contestant judges may ask questions.
7. Delivery should exceed no more than five (5) minutes with a 30-second grace period allowed.

2008 Symposium Topic: Fair Programming for Children

Pretend that you are vying for the position of “Youth Activities Director” at your fair. Prepare a multi-media presentation that showcases activities you would offer in a special “Kids’ Day at the Fair”. Include details such as your targeted age group, an expected budget for offering such activities, how many staff and/or volunteers would be needed, etc. Be creative! Plan things that will attract younger visitors to the fair and provide a new experience at the fair.

Letter of Reference from Fair Member (submit with application):

Ask a member/volunteer/director of your fair board to write a letter of support for you, emphasizing your fair participation and service. Include with your application.

Prepared Public Speaking Contest Rules:

1. Each contestant will submit at the contest check-in, three (3) copies of their prepared text. This text will be given to the judges in advance of the presentation and scored. Subject must be pertinent to the fair industry, but can cover any subject matter area.
2. Each speech will be from 4 to 6 minutes in length and scored 40% on composition, including organization of material and use of language, 45% on delivery, including projection, fluency, and voice control, and 15% on extemporaneous responses to questions asked by the judges.
3. The order of presentation will be randomly assigned. Notes will be allowed, but points will be deducted for excessive use per the judges' decision. No other materials or devices will be allowed.
4. A podium may or may not be available, dependent upon hotel set-up.
5. Contestants who do not stay within the 4-6 minute time limit will be penalized 10 pts.

Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest Rules:

1. Contestants will have 30 minutes to prepare a 2 – 4 minute speech on a topic that is chosen by contest officials. Each contestant will be given the same topic.
2. The presentation will be scored using the same formula as the prepared portion of the contest.
3. Topics will pertain to the fair industry, from managing to marketing, presenting to post fair evaluation, etc.
4. Contestants will be allowed to use notes while speaking, but again, there will be deductions for excessive use.
5. There will be a 5 point penalty for each minute or part thereof that the time limit is exceeded.

Résumé, Application, Interview Contest Rules:

1. An official application and résumé must be submitted with the appropriate signatures by December 7, 2007. Additional attached pages are acceptable.
2. Each contestant will, at the appointed time and place, participate in an interview with at least one judge to answer questions about their involvement in their local fairs, community, and other organizations. The judge(s) will review the application prior to the interview.
3. Contestants will be judged 50% on answers to three standard questions; 25% on poise, grammar, professional appearance; 25% on application neatness and completeness.

Essay (submit with application):

1. Each contestant must submit a typed essay addressing the topic below. Essays must accompany the application or the contestant will be disqualified.
2. Essays will be judged on grammar, mechanics, spelling, creativity, content, and quality.

2008 Topic: Fairs rely heavily on sponsorships, whether they are financial, in-kind, or other. Sponsoring businesses, organizations and individuals receive numerous requests for funds, so requestors often need a special pitch in order to obtain sponsorship.

Find a "fair success story" from your fair or another and write a marketing pitch that highlights that success story. The story could be about a youth, adult, event, competition, etc. Everyone who visits or is part of a fair is impacted in some way. Find those unique stories and write about them in this essay.

**Your target audience is a potential sponsor. The writing should be long enough to cover the subject, but short enough that sponsors will read it.*

2008 Virginia Association of Fairs Youth Leadership Award Application

Complete and return by December 7, 2007. See front page of contest packet for details.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____
City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Age _____ Birth date _____ Social Security #: _____

Parents Names: _____

(Parents' Address if Different): _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

School Presently Attending: _____ Year/
Grade: _____

Local Fair Represented: _____ Location: _____
(*Note: Fair must be a member of Virginia Association of Fairs.)

Attach a personal résumé* that includes the following:

1. Fair participation and service. Include name, brief description, and years involved.
2. Community Involvement. List group name, years involved, and brief description of participation.
3. Work Experience, paid or volunteer. Include title, responsibilities, and dates.
4. Honors or Awards received.
5. Statement of your plans for higher education and your career goals.

Include the required essay and letter of reference. See contest packet for details.

Signatures:

I certify that the applicant has been an active member of our fair and is eligible for this contest.

Signature of Sponsoring Fair Official

Title

I certify that all of the information contained within this application is true and correct and is all of my own work. I have read and understand the rules accompanying this scholarship contest.

Participant's Signature

Local Newspaper Information (Optional)

Name of Paper: _____ Town: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Fax Number: (_____) _____ E-mail Address: _____